



Idaho DEQ, Oregon DEQ, Washington Dept. of Ecology, and US EPA Region 10
In coordination with the Columbia Basin Tribes
Joint Fact Sheet #2, Fall 2001

Columbia/Snake River Mainstem TMDL Process and Schedule

Background

The states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington and EPA Region 10 are working in coordination with the Columbia Basin Tribes to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Temperature and Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. A TMDL is a technical analysis resulting in a document that quantifies the amount of a given pollutant (load) that can be released into a given waterbody each day while still maintaining Water Quality Standards (WQS). A TMDL also allocates responsibilities to "contributors" for reductions in the pollutant load that are necessary to achieve WQS. TMDLs are often referred to as Water Quality Improvement Plans.

Most of the Columbia River Mainstem and the Lower Snake River Mainstem exceed state and/or tribal Water Quality Standards for critical periods of time (mainly in the spring and summer months) for both water temperature and total dissolved gas. The TMDLs being done for the Columbia/Snake Mainstem will identify the sources of temperature and total dissolved gas causing or contributing to water quality impairment, and allocate responsibility for TDG and temperature reductions needed to achieve WQS.

Three separate but related TMDLs are being developed to achieve this objective: 1) Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL 2) Lower Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL 3) Mid Columbia/Lake Roosevelt and Lower Snake River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL. This fact sheet will lay out the process and schedule for each of these TMDLs.

Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL

The geographic scope of the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL includes the Mainstem Snake River from river mile (RM) 188 to its confluence with the Columbia River, and the Mainstem of the Columbia River, from the Canadian Border to Astoria Bridge at the River mouth. EPA has agreed to take the lead on this effort, but it will work in close coordination with the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington and in consultation and coordination with the Columbia Basin Tribes. The Temperature TMDL is expected to be completed by December of 2002, and will proceed according to the following timeline:

- Workshop on Water Quality Modeling – July 2001
- Public Workshop on Temperature Problem Assessment – October 2001
- Public Informational Workshop on Loading Capacity and Allocations – Late 2001 or Early 2002
- Draft Temperature TMDL for Public Review and Comment – Early 2002
- Public Meeting on Draft Temperature TMDL – Mid 2002

- Final Temperature TMDL issued – Late 2002

Lower Columbia Total Dissolved Gas TMDL

The geographic scope of the Lower Columbia Total Dissolved Gas TMDL includes the Columbia River Mainstem from its point of entry into Eastern Oregon to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean.

Because the Columbia River forms the border between the states of Oregon and Washington, these two states will share the lead on developing this TMDL. The states will work closely with the EPA. The states of Oregon and Idaho will ultimately issue the Lower Columbia Total Dissolved Gas TMDL.

The final Oregon/Washington Lower Columbia TDG TMDL is scheduled for completion by early 2002, and will proceed according to the following timeline:

- Oregon Preliminary Draft TDG TMDL for informal public comment – July 2001
- Public Information Workshop on TDG TMDL process and schedule – October 2001
- Formal public hearing on Draft TDG TMDL – Early 2002
- Final Oregon/Washington TDG TMDL submitted to EPA – Early 2002

Mid Columbia/Lake Roosevelt and Lower Snake River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL

This TMDL is an extension of the Lower Columbia TDG TMDL. The geographic scope of the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL includes the Mainstem Snake River from river mile (RM) 188 to its confluence with the Columbia River, and the Mainstem of the Columbia River, from Lake Roosevelt to the Oregon/Washington border.

Washington will take the lead on developing the TDG TMDL for the portions of the Columbia and Snake that flow through Washington, and EPA will take the lead on developing the TDG TMDL for any river segments that run through tribal waters, including Lake Roosevelt.

The final Mid Columbia/Lake Roosevelt TDG TMDL is scheduled for completion by December 2002. The Lower Snake River TDG TMDL may be finalized as early as August of 2002. These work efforts will complement one another and will proceed according to the following timeline:

- Public informational workshop on TDG TMDL process and schedule – October 2001
- Draft Lower Snake TDG TMDL –Spring 2002
- Final Draft Lower Snake TDG TMDL –Summer 2002
- Final Lower Snake TDG TMDL submitted to EPA – Summer 2002
- Draft Mid-Columbia TDG TMDL – Late 2002
- Final Draft Lower Snake TDG TMDL – Late 2002
- Final Mid-Columbia TDG TMDL submitted to EPA – Late 2002

For Notes/Workshop Materials or for More Information

Log onto the Internet at

[Http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainstemtmdl.htm](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainstemtmdl.htm)

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